



Greater Topeka Labor Pool

Douglas Jackson Jefferson Osage Pottawatomie Shawnee Wabaunsee

Topeka, Kansas

July 2004

Our wide-open spaces come with a workforce waiting for wide-open opportunities.

Today, in Greater Topeka, people want to be a part of something new and dynamic. Topeka has the workforce today to build, create, assemble, sell and shape the businesses of tomorrow.

Greater Topeka is proud to have citizens with the legendary heartland work ethic. Topeka offers good people with strong values who understand the importance of business and community partnerships. Of course, we have to work. But what sets us apart is that Topekans want to work.

Kansas has one of the highest levels of educational attainment in the country. The state has been ranked eighth nationally in the percent of population with a four-year degree, and more than half of Kansas workers have taken the opportunity for special on-the-job training. If your company needs specific skills, we will provide them.

Topekans will fill your offices, your manufacturing facilities, your distribution centers, your sales staffs. We can work the machines, the computers, the phones, the factories and even the fields. We are ready today.

Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce/GO Topeka – 120 S.E. 6th – Topeka, KS 66603
785-234-2644 – www.topekachamber.org



DEMOGRAPHICS

Greater Topeka is growing. Over the last decade, thousands of people have discovered Topeka and have moved to Shawnee and the surrounding counties.

What they find are great schools for their children today and expanding opportunities to help chart their tomorrows. They find a pleasant climate, short commutes, midwestern hospitality, low cost of living, a variety of entertainment opportunities and a mix of cultures that blend into a diverse and vibrant community.

County Population

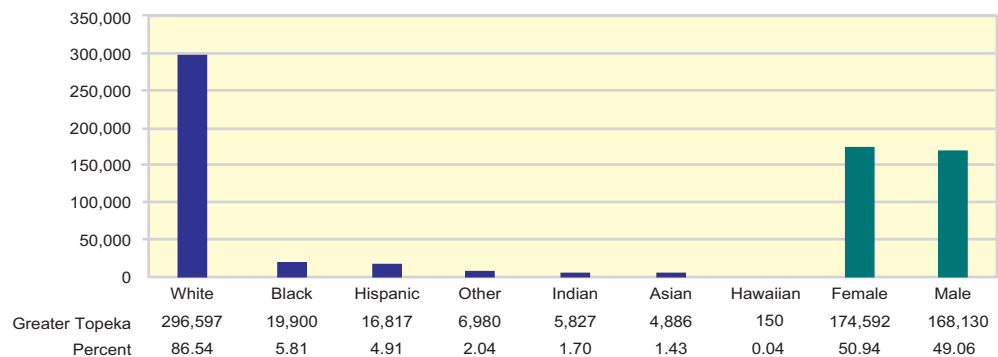
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, July 1, 2001.

County Name	Population			Change 1990 - 2002	
	2002 Estimate	2001 Census	1990 Census	Actual	Percent
Greater Topeka	346,601	343,519	308,183	38,418	12.5%
Shawnee	170,748	170,080	160,976	9,772	6.1%
Douglas	102,316	100,005	81,798	20,518	25.1%
Jefferson	18,664	18,610	15,905	2,759	17.3%
Pottawatomie	18,489	18,336	16,128	2,361	14.6%
Osage	16,928	16,903	15,248	1,680	11.0%
Jackson	12,741	12,742	11,525	1,216	10.6%
Wabaunsee	6,715	6,843	6,603	112	1.7%

Surrounding the Greater Topeka area are many smaller communities that provide small-town living with short drives to big-city opportunities in Topeka.

Regional Population by Ethnic Origin and Gender

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census.



Ten Largest Cities

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, July 1, 2002

City (County)	Population
Topeka (Shawnee)	122,103
Lawrence (Douglas)	81,604
Eudora (Douglas)	4,829
Wamego (Pottawatomie)	4,216
Baldwin City (Douglas)	3,579
Holton (Jackson)	3,302
Osage City (Osage)	3,027
St. Mary's (Pottawatomie)	2,243
Carbondale (Osage)	1,468
Silver Lake (Shawnee)	1,346

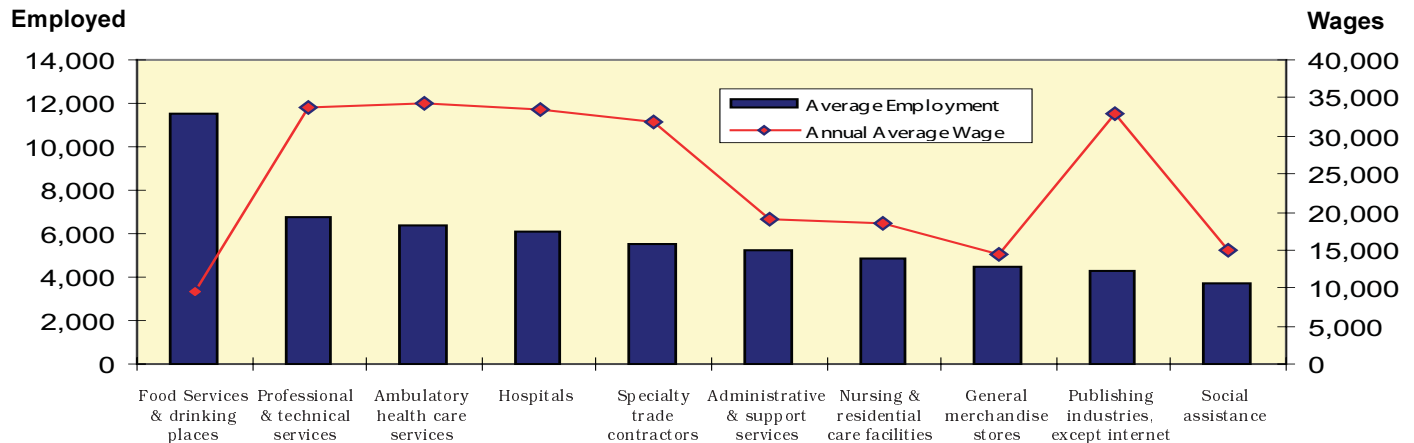
Topeka is the fourth largest city in Kansas and is in the center of the seven-county Greater Topeka area. With a population of 122,103 people, Topeka is the state capital and home to a beautiful downtown government complex. The Statehouse, the centerpiece of the city, is undergoing an eight-year renovation to restore it to its historic grandeur.

Lawrence, 22 miles east of Topeka and the sixth largest city in Kansas, is home to the University of Kansas and more than 81,000 people, many of them working in Shawnee County.

INDUSTRY PROFILE

Top Ten Industry Sub-sectors by Employment

Source: Kansas Department of Labor, Labor Market Information Services, 2002 annual averages



Industries in Topeka have a strong workforce ensuring that your business will continue to grow tomorrow.

Regional Employment and Wages

Source: Kansas Department of Labor, Labor Market Information Services, 2002 annual averages

Industry Sectors	Establishments	Employment	Average Wages
Total	9,251	165,232	\$29,172
Total Private	8,715	126,221	\$28,028
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	51	249	\$19,188
Mining	D	D	D
Utilities	D	D	D
Construction	1,163	9,086	\$33,176
Manufacturing	324	12,494	\$39,468
Wholesale Trade	456	4,166	\$38,376
Retail Trade	1,366	21,443	\$19,396
Transportation & Warehousing	262	3,027	\$30,992
Information	154	6,851	\$36,348
Finance & Insurance	593	7,079	\$41,600
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	385	2,196	\$22,724
Professional & Technical Services	910	6,720	\$33,748
Management of Companies & Enterprises	43	1,368	\$65,572
Administrative & Waste Services	441	5,435	\$19,448
Educational Services	78	1,161	\$24,024
Health Care & Social Assistance	734	21,108	\$26,988
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	112	2,431	\$15,964
Accommodation & Food Services	702	12,992	\$9,880
Other Services, except Public Administration	905	6,912	\$23,660
Total Government	536	39,011	\$32,812
Local Government	242	20,585	\$26,520
State Government	208	14,763	\$37,596
Federal Government	87	3,663	\$48,776

D = Unable to disclose data due to disclosure regulations.

Food and drinking establishments have the highest number of employees, with a workforce of nearly 11,500. The next highest number of employees is in the professional and technical industries, followed closely by ambulatory healthcare, hospitals and specialty trade contractors. The Greater Topeka area continues to offer a healthy mixture of industries and retail businesses.

In the private sector, retail trade, healthcare, manufacturing, construction, accommodations and food services are thriving. Average annual wages in the Topeka area range from \$9,880 for workers in accommodation and food services to \$65,572 for managers of companies and enterprises.

As the capital of Kansas, Topeka has a large number of government workers. Government is a leading employer in the Greater Topeka area, with more than 20,500 people in local government, 14,800 in state government and 3,700 in federal government. The average salary for the nearly 40,000 government workers is \$32,812.

LABOR FORCE

Today, people in Greater Topeka are ready to work. Statistics gathered by government agencies show there is a pool of employees ready to accept their roles in new jobs. The Greater Topeka area has a dynamic and ever growing workforce able to serve the needs of all employers.

Civilian Labor Force (Greater Topeka)

Source: Kansas Department of Labor, Labor Market Information Services, 2003 annual average.

Civilian Labor Force	191,264
Employment	182,135
Unemployment	9,129
Rate	4.8%

The Civilian Labor Force is “all civilians 16 years of age and over classified as employed or unemployed,” according to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Those classified as unemployed had made efforts to obtain employment in the past four weeks or were waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off.

The Civilian Labor Force and unemployment rate is one measure of the health of an area's economy. The Civilian Labor Force in the Topeka area has 191,264 people. The unemployment rate in 2003 was 4.8 percent in the Greater Topeka area, which is less than both the Kansas and national figures. However, low unemployment does not necessarily translate into a shortage of labor.

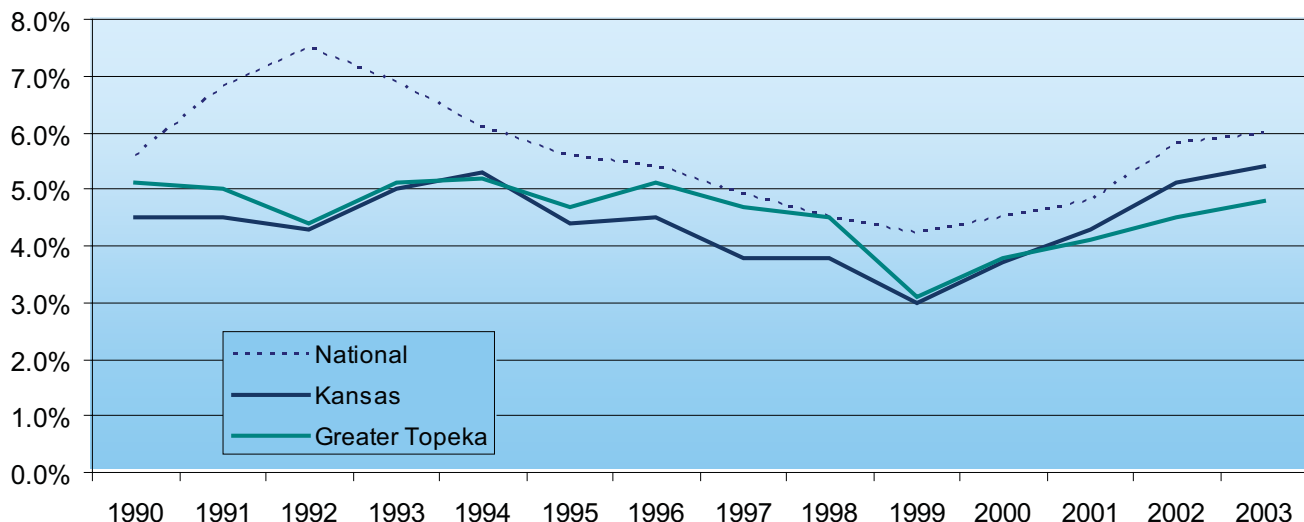
Civilian Labor Force statistics provide valuable information, but they don't tell the entire story.

The effective labor force – people who are fully employed, unemployed, discouraged workers and opportunity laborers – can also illustrate the employee picture. Discouraged workers have become disillusioned in their job searches, but want to work. Opportunity workers – for example full-time students or homemakers – are not looking.

The greater Topeka area labor force can accommodate a good deal of new and expanded demand for workers. During the recent recession, the significant amount of churning indicated the strength in the job market. For instance, the average monthly number of unemployed in Shawnee County during 2003 was 4,448, yet the average number of monthly employee acquisitions and separations was 19,500. Even in the weak economy, movement in the local job market was robust.

Unemployment Rate 1990 - 2003

Source: Kansas Department of Labor, Labor Market Information Services, and U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics



LOCAL EMPLOYMENT DYNAMICS (LED)

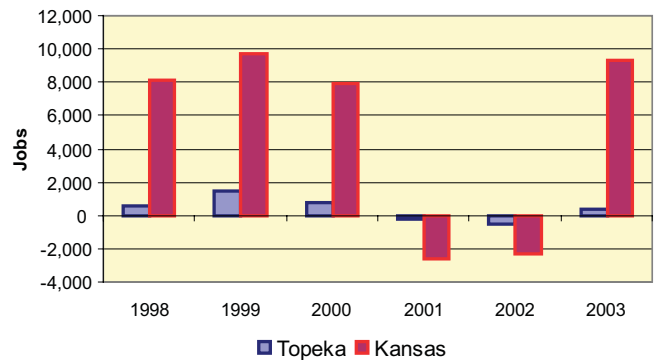
The Kansas Department of Labor entered into a partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau to share information concerning the employment movement in the labor force. Combining these two data sources provides previously unavailable labor force characteristics. Kansas is one of 20 states currently producing data in this program. This new material shows a remarkably detailed picture of employment in the Greater Topeka area.

By comparing employment in the same firms across quarters, we can track job flow and other economic indicators. As the graph indicates, both Kansas and the Topeka MSA have experienced negative job flow beginning in 2001 and continuing through 2002. During 2003 the job market improved to show gains.

Preliminary 2004 employment data indicate that the job growth has continued. The Greater Topeka area and Kansas are recovering from the weak economy. Even in times of economic slowdown, there is a great deal of churning in the job market. The turnover rate in the Topeka MSA was 11.9 percent, slightly lower than the 12.3 for Kansas.

Other indicators from the LED project include the average monthly wage for all workers, the average wage for new hires and the average wage by gender.

**Annual Net Job Flow
Kansas and Topeka MSA**



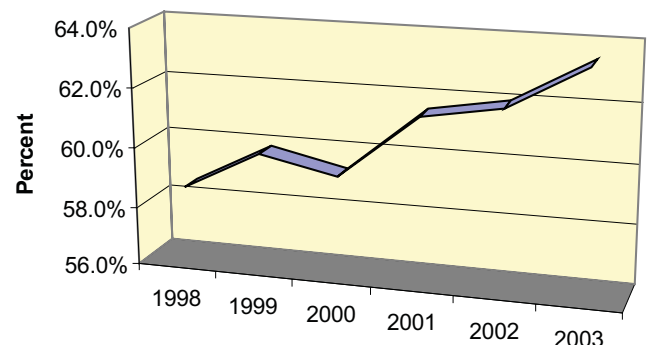
**Turnover Rates By Industry
Kansas and Topeka MSA
2003 (preliminary)**

Industry	Topeka MSA	Kansas
All	11.40%	11.00%
Agricultural	11.50%	10.70%
Mining	8.60%	8.60%
Construction	9.90%	11.60%
Manufacturing	7.20%	6.70%
Transportation and Utilities	12.70%	8.90%
Wholesale Trade	7.90%	8.30%
Retail Trade	15.80%	14.70%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	6.70%	8.30%
Services	11.70%	12.80%

**Average Monthly Wage and New Hire Wage
Topeka MSA - 2003**

Industry	TOPEKA MSA	
	Average Wage	Average New Hire Wage
<u>All Industries</u>	<u>\$2,729</u>	<u>\$2,309</u>
Agricultural	1,639	1,293
Mining	3,689	2,170
Construction	2,880	1,995
Manufacturing	3,612	2,958
Transportation and Utilities	4,043	3,635
Wholesale Trade	3,358	2,292
Retail Trade	1,798	2,420
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	3,651	2,554
Services	2,498	1,689

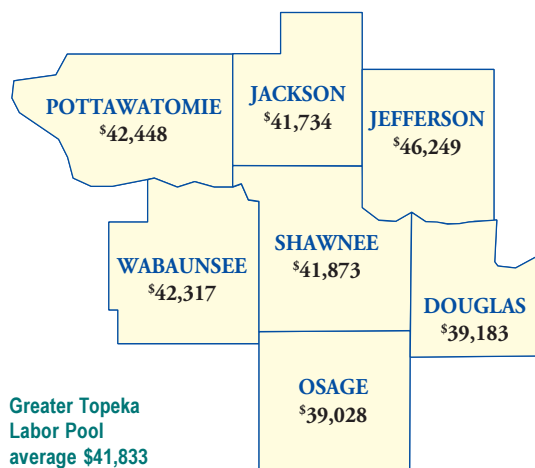
**Average Earnings for Women as a Percent of
Average Earnings for Men
Topeka MSA**



Feeling good about the work you do and being fairly compensated for it,
is the engine that drives a vibrant workforce.

Median Household Income

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2001



In Shawnee County and its neighboring counties, the median household income compares very favorably to the rest of the country. Across the United States, the median household income was \$41,994, the United States Census Bureau reported in 2000.

In Shawnee County, 58 percent of households reported an annual income of \$35,000 or above, and 40 percent had incomes of \$50,000 or more. The median income for the county is \$41,873.

In 2001, Shawnee County had a per capita personal income of \$29,144, ranking them fourth in Kansas, and above the state average of \$28,432. The bureau also reported that Shawnee County's per capita income increased 3.6 percent from 2000 to 2001.

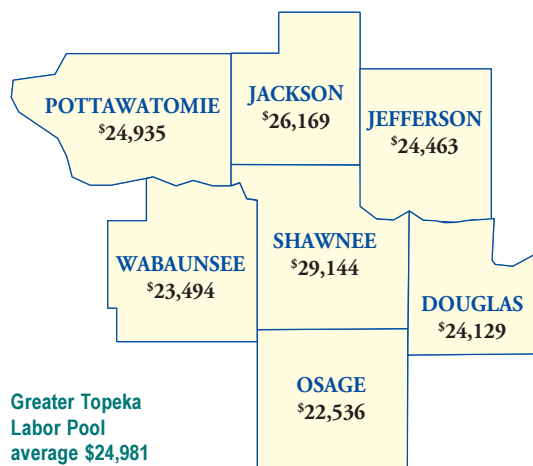
Shawnee County ranked third in Kansas in total personal income for 2001, according to the BEA. The total personal income for Shawnee County was more than \$4.9 million, up 4.0 percent from 2000.

Topeka has consistently ranked 8.0 percent below the average United States cost of living according to the ACCRA study conducted four times annually. With 100 being the average, the most recent study indicated Topeka ranked 88.5 in grocery items, 81.8 in housing, 95.9 in utilities, 94.2 in transportation, 94.6 in health care, and 98.8 in miscellaneous goods and services.

While Topeka is considered a "hot spot" for housing with housing values surging 18.25 percent during 2001, housing costs in Topeka remain below average. The average sale price for homes in neighborhoods typically purchased by corporate middle-management transferees is \$136,266, according to Coldwell Banker's 2003 Home Price Comparison Index.

Per Capita Personal Income

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2001



The Topeka/Shawnee County area has the trained workforce available today.
Their skills could be working for you tomorrow.

This publication is produced by coordinated efforts of The Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce/GO Topeka and Kansas Department of Labor, Labor Market Information Services.

Data supplied by: Kansas Department of Labor, Labor Market Information Services,
401 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka, KS 66603, 785-296-5058, <http://www.laborstats.org>